

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 00723 220700Z

10

ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CG-00 DOTE-00 FEA-01 AID-05

CEQ-01 COA-01 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 NSF-01 OES-03

ACDA-05 ERDA-05 AGR-05 TRSE-00 INT-05 JUSE-00 CIEP-01

OMB-01 CEA-01 FMC-01 /121 W
----- 008955

R 220530Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2034

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0723

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PLOS EWWT SN MY ID

SUBJ: SINGAPORE VIEWS ON TRIPARTITE MEETING ON THE STRAITS

REF: SINGAPORE 0680

SUMMARY. SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT
ALTHOUGH THE TRIPARTITE MEETINGS ON THE STRAITS PRODUCED AN
"ACCEPTABLE" COMMUNIQUE, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SINGAP 00723 220700Z

BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA OVER TONNAGE RESTRICTIONS AND

CONSULTATION WITH IMCO. UNDERLYING THESE DIFFERENCES WAS BASIC INDONESIAN/MALAYSIAN PREMISE THAT STRAITS ARE TERRITORIAL WATERS SUBJECT TO COASTAL STATE CONTROL. MALAYSIA CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED INDONESIAN POSITION AND GOS WAS ANNOYED THAT MALAYSIANS APPEARED TO BE BACKTRACKING FROM ALLEGED RECENT LEE/RAZAK UNDERSTANDING THAT RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE COMPOSED ONLY ON DRAFT OF TANKERS AND NOT ON TONNAGE. IN VIEW OF DISAGREEMENTS WHICH SURFACED DURING THESE MEETINGS, EMBASSY BELIEVES GOS WILL DRAG ITS HEELS ON STUDY OF LIMITATIONS AND IMPOSITION OF A TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME IN THE HOPE THAT THE GENEVA LOS CONFERENCE WILL RESOLVE BASIC LEGAL/POLITICAL PROBLEMS INHIBITING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE IMS GOVERNMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY MFA TAN BOON SENG INFORMED DCM FEBRUARY 21 THAT TRIPARTITE MEETINGS IN SINGAPORE ON STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE HAD "GONE QUITE WELL." FINAL COMMUNIQUE WAS RELATIVELY ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES AND IT WAS CLEAR THT INDONESIANS HAD BEEN ANXIOUS TO PREVENT TALKS FROM BREAKING DOWN. TAN, WHO HAD BEEN PRESENT AT SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETINGS, SAID THERE HAD BEEN QUOTE VIGOROUS UNQUOTE DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA ON SEVERAL MATTERS AND THAT MALAYSIA HAD INVARIABLY SIDED WITH INDONESIA. HE NOTED THT THE OFFICIALS OF THE THREE DELEGATIONS WERE ANXIOUS TO AVOID HAVING THEIR MINISTERS BECOME INVOLVED IN DETAILED ARGUMENTS AND DISAGREEMENTS, AND THEREFORE MET FOR ONE ADDITIONAL UNSCHEDULED SESSION TO REACH A COMPROMISE ON THE LANGUAGE OF THE COMMUNIQUE. HE GAVE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC INFORMATION, VIEWS AND COMMENTS ON DISCUSSIONS:

A. AT BEGINNING OF OFFICIALS MEETINGS GOS HAD SOUGHT AND RECEIVED AGREEMENT FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD FOCUS ON TRAFFIC SAFETY AND POLLUTION AND WOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN POLITICAL OR LEGAL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE STRAITS. HOWEVER, THROUGHOUT THE TALKS THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION, WITH MALAYSIAN, SUPPORT, CONSISTANTLY ARGUED FROM THE PREMISE THAT STRAITS WERE TERRITORIAL WATERS AND SUBJECT TO THE TOTAL CONTROL OF THE COASTAL STATES. THE PHRASE IN THE COMMUNIQUE THT THE INTERESTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD QUOTE BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT UNQUOTE HAD BEEN A COMPROMISE BETWEEN INDONESIAN/MALAYSIAN AND SINGA-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINGAP 00723 220700Z

PORAN VIEWS. THE GOS HAD PROPOSED THAT THE COMMUNIQUE STATE THAT THE TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME AND ANY OTHER RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO IMCO FOR ITS COMMENT AND APPROVAL. INDONESIA HAD STRONGLY OBJECTED AND HAD ARGUED THAT THE COMMUNIQUE SHOULD MAKE NO REFERENCE EITHER TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OR TO IMCO. THE COMPROMISE WAS THE BEST THAT COULD BE OBTAINED.

B. THE BIGGEST BONE OF CONTENTION WAS WHETHER THE THREE COAS-

TAL STATES SHOULD ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON THE TONNAGE OF TANKERS PASSING THROUGH THE STRAITS. HE SAID THE GOS WAS UPSET QUOTE TO SAY THE LEAST UNQUOTE WITH THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION FOR BACKTRACKING ON PRIME MINISTER LEE'S RECENT UNDERSTANDING WITH RAZAK DURING THE RECENT TALKS IN KUALA LUMPUR THAT RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE SOUGHT ONLY ON THE DRAFT OF SHIPS AND NOT ON TONNAGE. TAN EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT RAZAK HAD NOT BACKTRACKED, BUT HE THOUGHT SOME OF THE MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS HAD BEEN UPSET THAT RAZAK HAD AGREED WITH LEE ON THIS POINT AND WERE NOW ATTEMPTING TO REVERSE RAZAK.

C. NEITHER THE PROPOSED TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME NOR THE STUDY OF QUOTE CERTAIN LIMITATIONS UNQUOTE ON VLCC'S WOULD BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA. INDONESIA WANTED THE STUDY ON LIMITATIONS TO BE COMPLETED QUICKLY, BUT THE GOS INTENDED TO PROCEED COOLY AND DELIBERATELY. GOS THOUGHT THE TECHNICAL GROUP SHOULD LOOK AT ALL THE FACTORS INVOLVED, INCLUDING THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO DETERMINE WHAT TYPES OF LIMITATIONS MIGHT MAKE SENSE. HE NOTED THAT THE MALAYSIAN'S TECHNICAL EXPERTS PRIVATELY AGREED WITH SINGAPORE'S TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON MOST MATTERS. HOWEVER, HE WAS FEARFUL THEY WOULD BE OVER-RULED BY THE POLITICIANS.

2. HE SAID HE HAD ONE INTERESTING OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION WITH DIDI DJAJADININGRAT FROM THE INDONESIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN THE EVENT THE MARITIME POWERS REFUSED TO ABIDE BY ANY REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS THAT MIGHT BE IMPOSED BY THE COASTAL STATES. TAN SAID HE ASKED DJAJADININGRAT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE THREE STATES DECIDED TO IMPOSE A LIMITATION OF 200,000 TONS ON TANKERS USING THE STRAITS AND THE JAPANESE REFUSED TO ABIDE BY IT. DJAJADININGRAT REPLIED THAT THE JAPANESE WOULD OBSERVE COASTAL STATE REGULATIONS

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SINGAP 00723 220700Z

BECAUSE JAPAN NEEDED INDONESIA AND PARTICULARLY ITS OIL MORE THAN INDONESIA NEEDED JAPAN. WHEN TAN ASKED WHETHER THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION WOULD ABIDE BY THIS RESTRICTION, DJAJADININGRAT REPLIED THAT THESE WERE REASONABLE GOVERNMENTS AND WOULD ACCEPT REASONABLE RESTRICTIONS. TAN SAID, THEREFORE, IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE COASTAL STATES BE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT ANY TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME AND ANY OTHER RESTRICTIONS BE REASONABLE.

3. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH CONFERENCE DID NOT BREAK DOWN OVER THESE DISAGREEMENTS AND A COMMUNIQUE WAS PRODUCED WHICH PAPERED OVER THE DIFFERENCES, TAN SEEMED SOMEWHAT NONPLUSSED AS TO HOW THE THREE GOVERNMENTS WOULD PROCEED. IN VIEW OF THE DISAGREEMENTS WHICH SURFACED AT THESE MEETINGS, HE WAS NOT AT ALL SURE THAT THE STUDY GROUP WOULD BE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON LIMITATIONS, AND IT SEEMED QUITE APPARENT THAT THE GOS AND ITS TWO

NEIGHBORS WERE FAR APART ON WHETHER IT WAS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN THE COMMENTS AND APPROVAL OF THE MARITIME USERS. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOS WILL DO EVERYTHING IT CAN TO DELAY THE COMPLETION OF THESE STUDIES AND THE IMPOSITION OF A TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME IN THE HOPE THT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN GENEVA WILL SOLVE THE BASIC POLITICAL/LEGAL PROBLEMS WHICH ARE PRESENTLY INHIBITING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE THREE COASTAL STATES.

CRONK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STRAITS, MEETINGS, COMMUNIQUE, WATER RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SINGAP00723
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750063-0830
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750221/aaaaasmn.tel
Line Count: 178
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SINGAPORE 0680
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINGAPORE VIEWS ON TRIPARTITE MEETING ON THE STRAITS
TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, SN, MY, ID
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006